

AMENDMENTS

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A wound dressing comprising:

~~I. I)~~ a liquid permeable wound contacting layer;

~~II. II)~~ an intermediate layer; and

~~III. III)~~ an outer, liquid-impervious backing layer;

wherein at least one of said wound contacting and intermediate layers comprise[[s]]:

(a) a donor layer comprised of a therapeutic agent; and

(b) a barrier layer, said barrier layer comprising a matrix comprising polymers joined by cross-linkages which cross-linkages comprise oligopeptidic sequences which are cleavable by a protease associated with wound fluid such that the rate of release of the therapeutic agent increases in the presence of the protease, wherein the protease is associated with wound infection or ulcer formation, wherein the barrier layer initially separates the donor layer in the wound dressing from wound fluid when in use.

2. (Canceled) ~~A wound dressing according to claim 1 wherein the protease is associated with wound infection or ulcer formation.~~
3. (Previously presented) A wound dressing according to claim 1 wherein the polymers themselves are not degraded by the protease or other factors that may be present in the wound environment.
4. (Previously presented) A wound dressing according to claim 1 wherein the polymer is a synthetic polymer.

5. (Original) A wound dressing according to claim 4 wherein the polymer is a polymer of N-(2-hydroxypropyl) methacrylamide (HPMA).
6. (Previously presented) A wound dressing according to claim 1 wherein the oligopeptidic sequences comprise 3 to 15 amino acids.
7. (Withdrawn) A wound dressing according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the protease is elastase and wherein the oligopeptidic sequence comprises or consists of lys-gly-ala-ala-ala-lys (**SEQ ID NO: 1**), -Ala-Ala-Ala-, Ala-Ala-Pro-Val (**SEQ ID NO: 2**), Ala-Ala-Pro-Leu (**SEQ ID NO: 3**), Ala-Ala-Pro-Phe (**SEQ ID NO: 4**), Ala-Ala-Pro-Ala (**SEQ ID NO: 5**) or Ala-Tyr-Leu-Val (**SEQ ID NO: 6**).
8. (Withdrawn) A wound dressing according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the protease is a matrix metalloproteinase and wherein the oligopeptidic sequence comprises or consists of-Gly-Pro-Y-Gly-Pro-Z- (**SEQ ID NO: 7**),-Gly-Pro-Leu-Gly-Pro-Z- (**SEQ ID NO: 8**),-Gly-Pro-Ile-Gly-Pro-Z- (**SEQ ID NO: 9**), or-Ala-Pro-Gly-Leu-Z- (**SEQ ID NO: 10**), where Y and Z are amino acids.
9. (Withdrawn) A wound dressing according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the protease is a collagenase and wherein the oligopeptidic sequence comprises or consists of-Pro-Leu-Gly-Pro-D-Arg-Z- (**SEQ ID NO: 11**),-ProLeu-Gly-Leu-Leu-Gly-Z- (**SEQ ID NO: 12**),-Pro-Gln-Gly-Ile-Ala-Gly-Trp- (**SEQ ID NO: 13**),-Pro-Leu-Gly-Cys (Me)-His- (**SEQ ID NO: 14**),-Pro-Leu-Gly-Leu-Trp-Ala- (**SEQ ID NO: 15**),-Pro-Leu-Ala-Leu-Trp-Ala-Arg- (**SEQ ID NO: 16**), or-Pro-Leu-Ala-Tyr-Trp-Ala-Arg- (**SEQ ID NO: 17**), where Z is an amino acid.
10. (Withdrawn) A wound dressing according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the protease is a gelatinase and wherein the oligopeptidic sequence comprises or consists
11. (Currently amended) A wound dressing according to claim 1 wherein the protease is thrombin and wherein the oligopeptidic sequence comprises or consists of [[-]]Gly-Arg-Gly-Asp[[-]] (**SEQ ID NO: 19**),[[-]]Gly-Gly-Arg-, -Gly-Arg-Gly-Asp-Asn-Pro[[-]] (**SEQ ID NO: 20**),[[-]]Gly-Arg- Gly-Asp-Ser[[-]] (**SEQ ID NO: 21**),[[-]]Gly-Arg-Gly-Asp-

Ser-Pro-Lys[[-]] (SEQ ID NO: 22).

12. (Withdrawn) A wound dressing according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the protease is stromelysin and wherein the oligopeptidic sequence comprises or consists of-Pro-TyrAla-Tyr-Trp-Met-Arg- (SEQ ID NO: 23).
13. (Previously presented) A wound dressing according to claim 1 wherein the therapeutic agent is an antimicrobial agent, a pain relieving agent, an antiseptic, an analgesic, a local anaesthetic, or a protease inhibitor.
14. (Previously presented) A wound dressing according to claim 1 wherein the therapeutic agent is incorporated within the matrix.
15. (Previously presented) A wound dressing according to claim 14 wherein the wound contacting layer of the dressing comprises the matrix within which the therapeutic agent is incorporated.
16. (Previously presented) A wound dressing according to claim 14 wherein the intermediate layer comprises the matrix within which the therapeutic agent is incorporated.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Previously presented) A wound dressing according to claim 1 wherein the barrier layer comprises a sheet comprising apertures; wherein the apertures are substantially blocked by the matrix before exposure to wound fluid.
19. (Previously presented) A wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the donor layer is provided behind the barrier layer.
20. (Canceled)
21. (Canceled)
22. (Currently amended) A wound dressing according to claim 1 wherein the wound

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dressings further comprises at least one additional absorbent layer ~~selected from the group consisting of: absorbent layers and a backing layers.~~

23. (Canceled).